

REMARKS

With this amendment, Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-3 and 6-25 be cancelled without prejudice. Claims 26-43 are added. Therefore, claims 26-43 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6 and 9-10 were objected to in the final Office Action mailed November 6, 2003 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have elected to cancel these claims; therefore, rejection of these claims is moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 7-8, and 11-25 were rejected in the final Office Action mailed November 6, 2003 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,892,823 issued to Stelman (*Stelman*). Applicants have elected to cancel these claims; therefore, rejection of these claims is moot. New claims 26-43 are presented herein for examination, and have not yet been evaluated under *Stelman*. Nevertheless, for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 26-43 are not anticipated by *Stelman*.

Claim 26 recites the following:

an RJ-11 port to receive an RJ-11 connector;
a detection circuit to automatically determine whether an RJ-11 connector received by the RJ-11 port is **connected to end user equipment or to a telephone network**; and
a control circuit to **automatically configure** the RJ-11 port to interface to the end user equipment and the telephone network, based on the determination of the detection circuit.

Thus, Applicants claim a detection circuit to determine whether a connector in a port is connected to end user equipment or a telephone network and automatically configure the port based on the determination. Claim 34 is directed to a method with similar limitations of

determining whether a connector in a port is connected to end user equipment or a telephone network and automatically configuring the port based on the determination.

Whether or not *Stelman* discloses determining whether a connector is connected to non-telephonic equipment or telephonic equipment, and configuring the port to interface to either the non-telephonic equipment or a telephone network as asserted in the Office Action, which Applicants do not concede, *Stelman* fails to disclose or suggest determining whether a connector in a port is connected to **end user equipment** or a **telephone network**, and configure the port **based on the determination**. Rather, *Stelman* discusses interfacing accessory equipment of multiple different protocols with a telephone base unit. See col. 1, line 57 to col. 2, line 4; col. 4, lines 25 to 47. Whether or not *Stelman* discusses configuring an interface to the various different accessories according to the protocol employed by the accessory, *Stelman* merely contemplates a port that interconnects the accessory(ies) to a telephone base unit, and fails to suggest connecting to a telephone network, as recited in the claims. Because *Stelman* fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of the claims 26 and 35, Applicants respectfully submit that an anticipation rejection of these claims under *Stelman* is improper. Applicants therefore respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Furthermore, dependent claims necessarily include the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Claims 27-34 depend from claim 26 and claims 36-43 depend from claim 35. Because these dependent claims include all limitations of the independent claims discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are not anticipated by the reference for at least the reasons discussed above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that with the amendments herein all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the above-referenced application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date:

12/24/03



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